

**Virginia Latino Advisory Board  
Community Listening Session  
Thursday, June 23, 2022  
Charlottesville, VA**

**VLAB Members in Attendance**

Lyons Sanchezconcha (Chair), Joshua DeSilva (Vice Chair), Max Luna, Gloria Rockhold

The event began at 6pm with a welcome from VLAB Member Max Luna. He explained that this event will be entirely in Spanish with English translation available simultaneously via headset.

Max Luna introduced Chair Sanchezconcha and thanked the church for hosting the event. Max explained the format for the event, including table discussions about each community topic (health, civic engagement, business, health, education).

Chair Sanchezconcha explained the Commonwealth Advisory Boards and the process each Board goes through to draft recommendations. He noted that this is a point of transition for VLAB with the change of administration. He noted that eight current VLAB members will be departing after this month. He noted the growth of the Latino community and the need to highlight community priorities with leaders in Richmond. Additionally, he mentioned the Board's role in advocating for translation needs for state programs.

Each of the tables summarized their discussions:

**Education**

Programs for Spanish primary learners exist but they are not well advertised or attended.

**Business**

We need Spanish language license applications for every type of industry. Also want to bring attention to Latinos being victims of fraud

**Social Justice and Community Engagement**

We don't have new recommendations but want to reinforce three existing ones. VLAB should push a little bit to create change. Position in the Governor's office that covers the Latino community. It needs to be permanently funded.

**Housing**

We talked about the fact that we don't have accessible, affordable housing for the whole community. We highlighted the importance of finding a program that can find accessible housing.

**Health**

Mental health is a humongous problem. Programs exist to address mental health but they almost always lack Spanish language interpretation options. Training for health professionals on cultural competence is seriously lacking. Patients aren't getting to provide informed consent because of language barriers. We need more resources for mental health for men.